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03/13/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jim Robillard, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Karen Grossman, Charlotte Milan, Marshall McCloskey, Brian Murray, Amy Goldstein, Chad Mikkelson, Mustafa Varoglu, Meghan Henning, Sue Doctrow, Robin Varghese, Dorris Birmingham.

Approval of Minutes

February 14, 2012 Minutes – Mr. Vitters motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0 as amended by Mr. Vitters.

Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

Spy Pond Path Way Discussion

Mr. Connelly reviewed the responses from CRJA regarding the proposal to provide a plan to regrade the pathways at Spy Pond. The Commission discussed that paying several thousand dollars for a study seemed excessive for something that is a rather simple maintenance item at this point and time. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to meet with a contractor directly on site with Mr.

Vitters assessment of the issues to try to get a cost estimate. Mr. Connelly stated that he would try to get an initial cost for bringing the pathways back to grade and an annual maintenance cost for up keeping the paths.

Ms. Grossman asked about different path way materials. The Commission commented that at this time they were looking for a maintenance fix using the current material, until we could establish how the stay-loc material held up at the other locations in town.

Spy Pond Kayak Program

Mr. Connelly introduced Ms. Milan to review the program. Mr. Connelly reviewed the basics of the program and Ms. Milan reviewed the financial option of raising capital funds. Ms. Mayer asked if any existing capital funds could be used. Mr. Connelly stated that he would check with the Town Manager. The Commission asked for Town Counsel to review the age requirements for the program and indemnification sheet. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the program concept and motioned for Mr. Connelly and Ms. Milan to move the program forward, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Spy Pond Request for Storage

The Friends of Spy Pond requested that a storage shed be placed on site to help with the annual clean-ups. Ms. Mayer asked if they had seen the storage shed policy. Ms. Grossman said that they have read and understand the policy. The Commission discussed placement within the fenced area used by the AB Crew program. Mr. Connelly will discuss this with the AB Crew program.

The Commission discussed the type of shed with the Friends of Spy Pond. Ms. Mayer recommended being uniform with the AB Crew Shed. The Commission agreed.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the shed similar in style to the AB Crew shed with final location to be approved by Mr. Connelly, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated the project is complete and is just awaiting final light testing/training with Musco.

North Union Basketball Court – Bid was awarded to Sunshine Paving and the accepted bid is about \$10,000 under budget. Mr. Vitters asked Mr. Connelly to look at the new fencing put up along the spray pool side of the park. Mr. Vitters stated that it looked permanent and not like construction fence for the project. Mr. Connelly will investigate.

Thorndike Field OLRA Update – Mr. Connelly stated that the Stanton Foundation has committed to picking up the cost of the change order and the project is back underway with estimated completion at the end of April. Mr. Connelly will send out the draft rules to the Commission and the Commission will vote on them at the April meeting.

2013 Capital Request Review – No report.

Reservoir Boat Ramp – No report.

Buck Field Renovation – Mr. Connelly reviewed the latest report from youth baseball concerning the paint sample for the dugout trim. Mr. Connelly stated that the landscape plan would be held until the base project was complete. At that time youth baseball would reassess their plan and present any recommendations to the Park Commission for approval. Mr. Connelly reviewed the request to move the current set of bleachers from Buck to McClennen Field. Mr. Connelly will mark any potential areas and notify the Commission for review.

Poets Corner Master Plan – No report. Mr. Connelly did state the field user groups were excited about the design phase of this project.

Off Leash Dog Review Review and Draft 2012 Warrant Article for Afternoon Off Leash Hours

Mr. Connelly reviewed the correspondence from Ms. Reed concerning dogs in her back yard adjacent to Menotomy Rocks Park. The Commission discussed the current situation. The Commission supports a strong ACO stand on ticketing those in violation of the bylaw. Mr. Connelly stated that the quarterly after hour patrols would be taking place soon.

The Commission reviewed the request from the BOS for a more detailed plan. Ms. Mayer stated that for purely discussion purposes she developed a plan based on the Green Dog proposal to start the discussion. The Commission reviewed the proposal with Ms. Mayer.

The Commission discussed with those in attendance the benefits of putting the draft proposal out there prior to the bylaw being voted on.

Mr. Vitters stated that it was a risk because the draft proposal could be mistaken for the actual bylaw and reduce flexibility.

Ms. Canniff and Ms. Rothenberg agreed stating that it was a great internal document but should not be put to the public in any formal document representing a proposal.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer to send the BOS a memo just giving more detail regarding the evaluation criteria and not an actual plan.

Special Requests

Brian Murray – AAU Baseball- Robbins Farm – The Commission approved the motion to allow one U-13 team to use Robbins Farm on a Saturday or Sunday morning prior to Babe Ruth as long as the final schedule is approved by Mr. Robillard and Arlington Babe Ruth.

Spy Pond – Friends of Spy Pond Park June 2nd event - The Commission approved the motion to allow the use with the condition of trash in and trash out.

Baby Boot Camp – The Commission approved this program for use at Hill Hill field through the Summer. At that time the program should be either incorporated into the Recreation program offerings or charged a fee per the current field policy clinic rates.

Joe Rindone - The Commission discussed the fee rate. Ms. Mayer suggested charging them as a clinic per our field policy. Mr. Connelly stated that was an excellent idea. The Commission approved the use with the condition that they are charged as a clinic per the Town of Arlington Field Policy.

The Commission did ask Mr. Connelly to investigate the use of the Spy Pond Park area by a private yoga studio and would like to make sure that any business uses of parks are requesting the appropriate permits and paying the field user fees.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly discussed the feedback from the new policy regarding toys left in the park. The Commission discussed the policy. Mr. Connelly will meet with the Friends of Magnolia to try to find a solution.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – Mr. Connelly stated that a meeting was being held in late March to address the proposal and increased locations.

Friends of Parks – N/A

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

